



US006598029B1

(12) **United States Patent**  
**Johnson et al.**

(10) Patent No.: **US 6,598,029 B1**

(45) Date of Patent: **\*Jul. 22, 2003**

(54) **BIDDING FOR ENERGY SUPPLY WITH REQUEST FOR SERVICE**

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(\*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 0 days.

This patent is subject to a terminal disclaimer.

(21) Appl. No.: **09/542,451**

(22) Filed: **Apr. 4, 2000**

#### Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. 09/023,968, filed on Feb. 13, 1998, now Pat. No. 6,047,274.

(60) Provisional application No. 60/064,421, filed on Oct. 30, 1997, and provisional application No. 60/039,041, filed on Feb. 24, 1997.

(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... **G06F 17/60**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... **705/37; 705/400; 705/20; 705/35; 705/412; 376/254; 376/428; 376/434; 376/444; 376/259; 376/215**

(58) Field of Search ..... **705/412, 400, 705/10, 40, 34, 63; 379/112, 115; 706/45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50**

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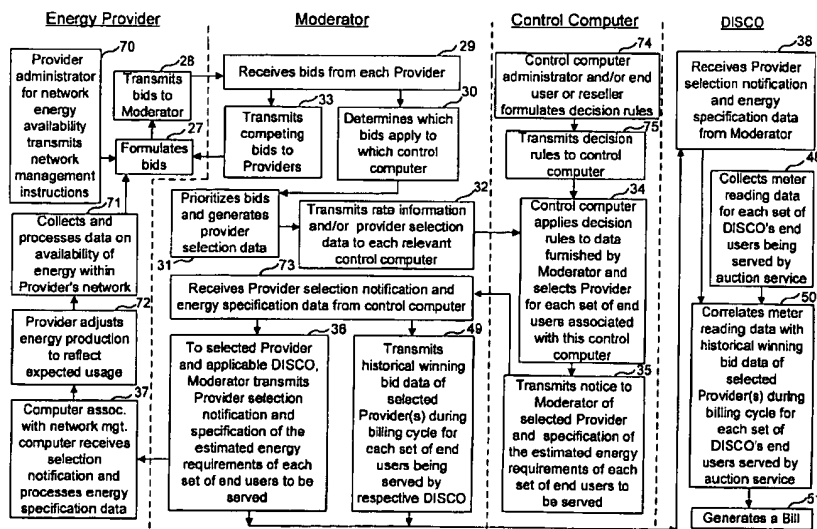
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#### (57) ABSTRACT

An auction service is provided that stimulates competition between energy suppliers (i.e., electric power or natural gas). A bidding moderator (Moderator) receives bids from the competing suppliers of the rate each is willing to charge to particular end users for estimated quantities of electric power or gas supply (separate auctions). Each supplier receives competing bids from the Moderator and has the opportunity to adjust its own bids down or up, depending on whether it wants to encourage or discourage additional energy delivery commitments in a particular geographic area or to a particular customer group. Each supplier's bids can also be changed to reflect each supplier's capacity utilization. Appropriate billing arrangements are also disclosed.

The technology required to facilitate forward delivery transactions, in which a buyer and seller agree to the terms of a transaction today but schedule the delivery for a future time, would be helpful to end users, resellers and suppliers. The Moderator can facilitate such transactions by processing requests for end users or resellers (as buyers) for energy needs to be delivered in the future by suppliers. In order to provide the Moderator with sufficient information to process such a request, the buyer will enter the information describing the request on a software-derived template and transmit such information to the Moderator.

113 Claims, 16 Drawing Sheets



US-PAT-NO: 6598029

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6598029 B1

**\*\*See image for Certificate of Correction\*\***

TITLE: Bidding for energy supply with request for service

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Abstract Text - ABTX (1):

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